

LOPHIUS HISTRIO.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Caput (corpusque plerisque) depressum.

Dentes plurimi, acuti.

Oculi verticales.

Corpus squamis nudum, informe.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

LOPHIUS subflavescens, corpore compresso tumido, maculis irregularibus nigricantibus variato.

LOPHIUS HISTRIO.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 403.

Bloch. ichth. t. 111.

Ob formam quam sortitus est singularem et inusitatam, putemus potius hunc piscem monstrum quoddam seu pictoris lusum quam ipsius naturæ artificium. Maris Americani Australis incola est et prope oras Brasilienses plerumque conspicitur. Peculiare quiddam et insolitum est in tuberibus illis elongatis quæ ex capite excrescunt, nec satis adhuc patet cuiusnam usui inserviant. Pinnæ anteriores, pedibus

K

simillimæ,

ſimillimæ, inutiles feruntur ad progrediendum. Ni fallor tamen, auctor cujuſdam operis ichthyologici, (Dominus Renard?) ſe vidiffe Lophium aſſerit, qui ex aqua captus per tres dies ſervaretur, circa domum more canis ambulans. Raro pede longior eſt, et longe minora ſunt ſpecimina, quotquot vidi, in Europam adveſta. Color fuſco-flaveſcens, ſubtus pallidior, totumque corpus maculis plurimis fuſco-nigricantibus indifcriminatim notatum. Prædando vitam ſuſtentat Lophius Hiſtrio.



THE
HARLEQUIN LOPHIUS.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Head (and body in most species) depressed.

Eyes vertical.

Teeth numerous, minute, sharp.

Body destitute of scales.

Shape uncouth.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

YELLOWISH LOPHIUS, with compressed tumid body, variegated with irregular blackish spots.

The SPOTTED FROG-FISH.

The HARLEQUIN FROG-FISH.

The shape of this animal is so highly singular as to resemble at first view some fanciful production of the pencil rather than any real existence. It is a native of the South-American ocean, and is chiefly found near the coasts of Brasil. The lengthened processes on the head are of a very peculiar and unusual structure, and their use is not perfectly clear.

The

The anterior fins bear a strong general resemblance to a pair of feet: yet it is said the animal has not the power of using them as such. If, however, I am not mistaken, a certain author, (Monf. Renard?) in his History of Fish, declares that he saw an instance of a fish of this species being kept for three days out of the water, and walking about the house in the manner of a dog. Its size is not large, very rarely exceeding the length of a foot; and the specimens seen in our museums are in general far smaller. The color is a yellowish brown, paler beneath, and the whole body is covered with numerous irregular blackish-brown marks or spots. It is a fish of a predacious nature.